

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-18 (cancelled)

19. (Currently amended) The A method according to claim 14, wherein for monitoring a contaminated, dirty or inflammable condition within an electrical consumer appliance, comprising:
using a measurement device to measure a parameter that indicates an amount of dust on a surface located within an electrical consumer appliance comprises using an optical measurement device to measure attenuation of a light beam transmitted through the dust that is on said a surface located within said an electrical consumer appliance;; and
using an indicator to indicate when the amount of dust on said surface exceeds an acceptable limit comprises using an indicator, connected to said optical measurement device, to specify a measurement value that is a function of the measured attenuation of said light beam so as to indicate a thickness of the dust on said surface and thereby indicate when an amount of dust on said surface exceeds an acceptable limit.

20. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 19, wherein using an optical measurement device to measure attenuation of a light beam transmitted through the dust that is on said surface located within said electrical consumer appliance comprises using said optical measurement device to measure attenuation of a light beam transmitted through the dust that is on said surface located within a television set.

21. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 19, wherein using an optical measurement device to measure attenuation of a light beam transmitted through the dust that is on said surface located within said electrical consumer appliance comprises comparing an output intensity of said light beam with an intensity of a reference light beam that is not transmitted through the dust that is on said surface.

22. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 19, wherein using an optical measurement device to measure attenuation of a light beam transmitted through the dust that is on

said surface located within said electrical consumer appliance comprises using an optical measurement device to measure attenuation of a divergent or expanded light beam transmitted along and through the dust and then focused towards a photodetector via a lens that is positioned beyond said surface.

23. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 19, wherein using an optical measurement device to measure attenuation of a light beam transmitted through the dust that is on said surface located within said electrical consumer appliance comprises using an optical measurement device to measure attenuation of a light beam transmitted transversely through the dust and reflected from said surface.

Claims 24-33 (cancelled)

34. (New) The method according to claim 19, wherein using an optical measurement device to measure attenuation of a light beam transmitted through dust that is on a surface located within an electrical consumer appliance comprises using an optical measurement device, located within said electrical consumer appliance, to measure attenuation of the light beam transmitted through the dust that is on said surface located within said electrical consumer appliance.

35. (New) The method according to claim 34, wherein using an optical measurement device to measure attenuation of a light beam transmitted through the dust that is on said surface located within said electrical consumer appliance comprises using said optical measurement device to measure attenuation of a light beam transmitted through the dust that is on said surface located within a television set.

36. (New) The method according to claim 34, wherein using an optical measurement device to measure attenuation of a light beam transmitted through the dust that is on said surface located within said electrical consumer appliance comprises comparing an output intensity of said light beam with an intensity of a reference light beam that is not transmitted through the dust that is on said surface.

37. (New) The method according to claim 34, wherein using an optical measurement device to measure attenuation of a light beam transmitted through the dust that is on said surface located within said electrical consumer appliance comprises using an optical measurement device to measure attenuation of a divergent or expanded light beam transmitted along and through the dust and then focused towards a photodetector via a lens that is positioned beyond said surface.

38. (New) The method according to claim 34, wherein using an optical measurement device to measure attenuation of a light beam transmitted through the dust that is on said surface located within said electrical consumer appliance comprises using an optical measurement device to measure attenuation of a light beam transmitted transversely through the dust and reflected from said surface.